THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is no proposal at present to open Extra Department Branch Post Office at village Nandla, District Shimla as it was not found justified on distance and financial norms.

(c) For opening of a Branch Post Office, the minimum distance from the nearest existing Post Office should be 3 kms. and minimum anticipated income should be 15% of the cost. In this case, the proposed Post Office is 1.5 kms. from its nearest existing Post Office, Jangla and the assessed anticipated income is only 8.51% of the cost. Therefore, requisite distance and income norms are not fulfilled.

Telephone connections in Himachal Pradesh

2573. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of waiting list of telephone connections registered during the period from the 1st January, 2000 to the 30th June, 2003 in the Sub-Division Office (T), Rehan and Dehra in District Kangra, Himachal Pradesh;

(b) the present status thereof; and

(c) by when this waiting list would be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) The details of waiting list registered during the period from 1st January, 2000 to 30th June, 2003 in the Sub-Division Office (T) Rehan and Dehra and their present status is as under:-

Name of Telegraph Sub-Division	Waiting list registered from 1.1.2000 to 30.6.2003	Telephone connections provided	Present status of Waiting List
Dehra	2043	570	1473
Rehan	2771	1137	1634

(c) The waitlisted applicants are likely to get connections progressively before the end of the Financial Year.